

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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U.S. Steel OH

Gary, I.N.

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Ohio River pollution may spark lawsuit

CINCINNATI (AP) — City officials in Cincinnati want other municipalities which use the Ohio River for drinking water to join a lawsuit against U.S. Steel Corp. for leaking the cancer-causing chemical benzene into the river.

The benzene spill, discovered Jan. 25, was traced to the U.S.

Steel plant at Clairton, Pa. Pipes there apparently burst on Jan. 20, sending the chemical into an Ohio River tributary.

Since it was first detected here Feb. 2, city waterworks Director Richard Miller said his staff has been using an expensive powdered form of activated carbon to remove benzene from the Cincin-

nati water supply.

He said the city already has spent \$34,000 cleaning up the water and predicted that the treatment will have to continue for about a month.

Miller said the city probably will run up thousands of dollars in additional carbon expenses by that time. Personnel costs for repeated testing of the benzene concentration and emergency monitoring have not been added to the total, he said.

U.S. Steel officials had little to say about the possibility of a suit.

"I don't know what to say because I haven't seen the lawsuit and neither have (our) lawyers," said George Keebler, a spokesman at the company's Lorain, Ohio, headquarters.